

June 1, 1995

BQC 95-019

TO: Ambulatory Surgical Centers

ASC 1

FROM: Judy Fryback, Director  
Bureau of Quality Compliance

SUBJECT: HCFA Regional Program Letter 94-27 on Pain Management Therapy in Ambulatory Surgical Centers

Attached is a copy of a Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Regional Program Letter (RPL) 94-27. The letter deals with the HCFA Central Office response to questions regarding the performance and payment of pain management therapy in Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC). It is hoped that you find this information useful.

Please share this information with the appropriate staff. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stephen D. Schlough, P.E., Chief, Hospital and Health Services Section at (608) 266-3878.

JF/SDS/JJF/pw

95019.doc

cc:-BQC Staff

- Office of Legal Counsel
- Ann Haney, DOH Admin.
- Kevin Piper, BHCF Dir.
- HCFA, Region V, M. Dykstra
- Illinois State Agency
- Ohio State Agency
- Michigan State Agency
- Indiana State Agency
- Minnesota State Agency
- St. Med. Society (Comm. Aging...)
- Non-LTC BQC Memo Subscribers
- Mark Bunge, BPH
- WI Surgery Ctr. Association

Department of Health & Human Services  
Health Care Financing Administration  
Region V  
105 West Adams Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60603-6201

Refer to: CO25

November 1994

**Division of Health Standards & Quality Regional Program Letter No. 94-27**

**Subject: Performance of Pain Management Therapy in Ambulatory Surgical Centers**

Recently, HCFA Central Office received questions regarding the performance and payment of pain management therapy in Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC).

We would like to clarify current policy concerning this type of therapy. Pain management therapy is a Medicare covered ASC procedure; it is listed as a Medicare covered ASC procedure and thus, the ASC would receive Medicare reimbursement for the performance of this procedure.

An ASC can specialize in pain management therapy and be a Medicare certified ASC. Pain management therapy is listed in the Current Procedural Terminology surgery section, which is used by national medical organizations, such as the American Medical Association. The ASC would be in compliance with 42 CFR 416.2 "Definition," if the ASC specializes in pain management therapy.

I hope you will find this helpful. If you have any questions on the above, please contact your Program Representative.

/s/ Sally Jo Wieling  
Acting Branch Chief  
Survey & Certification Operations Branch  
Division of Health Standards & Quality